



**Serra Club of Arlington**  
*Minutes for Tuesday 07 October 2025 | Luncheon Meeting*  
*The Portofino Restaurant | Arlington, Virginia*



**GUEST SPEAKER – Father Jerome Fasano, T.O.P.**

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Fr. Jerome Fasano, T.O.P., is a product of New York public schools before entering the seminary in 1966. He studied philosophy and theology at the Dominican House of Studies. Now, a member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic, he was ordained by Bishop Thomas Welsh on May 7, 1977, at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More, and has served as Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart, Winchester, Saint Michael's, Annandale, Saint John's, McLean. As Pastor, he served at Saint Catherine's, Great Falls, Saint Andrew's, Clifton, and Saint John the Baptist, in Front Royal, until his retirement four years ago. He now exercises his priesthood assisting at Sacred Heart in Winchester, where he now lives with his sister. A priority of his priestly ministry has always been the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Father Fasano's talk was about his experience with priestly vocations. Like Bishop Sheen, he always wanted to be a priest. When his Godmother took him to Mass as a child he yelled out "that's what I want to be". Also as a youngster, he would gather the old ladies of the neighborhood and offer Mass with a sermon, and of course, took collection.

Father Fasano lamented the decline in priests and parishes and how many prospective seminarians struggle in their discernment towards the priesthood. He noted how people will remark "Oh, what a waste" when looking at seminarians and priests, particularly good looking ones. There is a crisis of response – people want to do their own thing.

He proclaimed that in the sacraments heaven touches earth through the priest. The priest is required to do this. Holy Orders mark the man and there is a change in his being. Priests are living reminders of Christ and Christ works through the priest. Priests act "in persona Christi", in the person of Christ. As an example, in the sacrament of penance the priest says "I absolve" not "Christ absolves".

Father talked about promoting vocations for boys and men. He noted that there used to be altar boys, not altar servers. And raised the issue of the Archbishop of Canterbury being a pro-choice woman. His tips for more vocations includes prayer and encouragement. Pray "Take one of my sons or take me". Pray the rosary for vocations. Father Fasano explained how the Our Lady of the Rosary's connection to the Battle of Vienna is a religious and historical one, attributing the Christian victory over the Ottoman Empire in 1683 to divine intervention through the power of the Rosary. He also explained A common theme is St. Dominic's gift of the Rosary, which was given to him by the Virgin Mary, making prayers that involve the Rosary very relevant.

Encourage young men; challenge them with compassion. And support our priests. Parishes should do everything they can to nurture the call which is a call to love and for loving.

And trust God.

At the end of his talk, Father Fasano showed a relic of St. John Vianney and his Brievary given him by Saint Teresa of Calcutta which included the handwritten inscription:

**Be Holy. Because Jesus, who has chosen you to be His  
Priest, is Holy. God Bless you, Mother Teresa**